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## Bigger Yields From Everbearing Strawberries

E. L. Denisen  
*Iowa State College*

P. C. Crandall  
*Iowa State College*

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Picture above shows everbearing strawberries in 3-row system with corn cob mulch. Note heavy fruit set. Lower picture shows a runner plant of a modified 3-row system. Picture taken October 3.



## bigger yields from Everbearing Strawberries

by E. L. Denisen and P. C. Crandall

**M**ANY HOME gardeners and commercial producers of strawberries in Iowa have had discouraging results with everbearing strawberries. One reason is the hot, dry weather we usually have during July and August. Because moisture is short, the late summer crop often consists mostly of small fruits or "nubbins" — sometimes not even worth harvesting.

Another reason why everbearers may fail to yield well is the competition between runner production

and berry production. Runners use much of the plant-manufactured food which otherwise would be available for berry production.

### High Yields Possible

A new mulch and runner-pulling system of strawberry management tested at Ames and Council Bluffs does much to correct these problems and makes high yields possible from everbearing strawberries in Iowa.

Yields equivalent to 10,000 quarts per acre or 92 quarts per 100 feet of row were obtained near Ames from a planting set out in April of the same year. And near Council Bluffs, where more rain

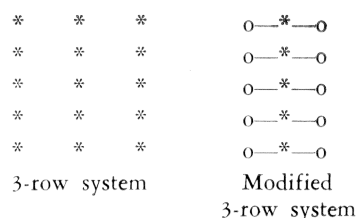
fell during late summer and early fall, yields equivalent to 13,000 quarts per acre or 120 quarts per 100 feet of row were harvested. The new Superfection variety was used in these experiments.

For comparison, the usual matted row method, without mulch or runner pulling, produced less than 3,000 quarts per acre or 27 quarts per 100 feet of row.

### Best Plan

We tried several planting plans in our tests. We found the most desirable to consist of beds of 3 rows 1 foot apart and the plants 1 foot apart within the rows. We left a 2-foot path between beds. We called this the three-row system.

For those who prefer to grow some of their own plants, the modified three-row system can be used. Here only the center row is planted and the rows on either side are formed by training the runners. The mulch is pushed aside where each new plant will be located to allow the runners to root directly into the soil. More labor is needed in getting the runner plants placed and the yields will not be as great the first year. The two planting plans are as follows:



\*=location of original planting; o=location of a runner plant.

### The Summer Mulch

For a mulch, we found either cracked corncobs or sawdust satisfactory. Corncobs, however, are generally more available than sawdust in Iowa. You can crack corncobs by running them through a hammermill with the sieves removed. We mulched the strawberries a month after planting. Corncobs were applied to a depth of 1½ to 2 inches, and sawdust to a depth of 1 to 1½ inches. The mulch was spread completely over the soil around the plants with special care to prevent covering the crowns and leaves. In the meantime, we had cultivated the plots where the mulch was to be used

E. L. DENISEN is assistant professor of horticulture. P. C. CRANDALL, a former member of the horticulture staff here, is now assistant professor of horticulture at Washington State College.

for 1 month before applying the mulch. Thus the plants were well established before the mulch was applied.

The first blossoms were removed to allow the plants to develop large crowns and leaf areas.

## Second-Year Bed

During the second year, both spring and fall crops can be harvested from the everbearers. The Council Bluffs experiment gave yields of nearly 15,000 quarts per acre from the 2-year-old bed with the three-row system. Results of our first- and second-year tests clearly showed that the combined effects of spacing runner removal and summer mulching gave a considerable increase in yield over the customary matted row system of management.

## Varieties Compared

Yields per 100 feet of row of four relatively new varieties grown under this system in 1951 are as follows:

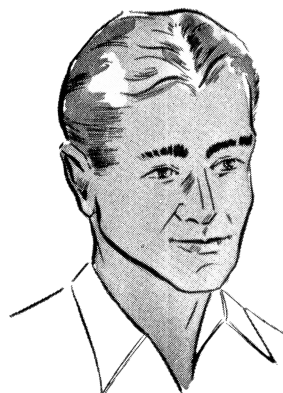
Brilliant	103 quarts
Red Rich	80 quarts
Streamliner	66 quarts
Superfection	108 quarts

All of these varieties seem adapted to the mulching system with runner removal.

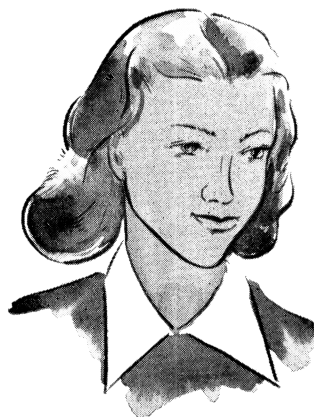
## Important Points

If you want to establish everbearing beds with summer mulching and runner removal, keep the following points in mind:

- Use fertile soil not in sod the year before and relatively free of weeds.
- Allow about 1 month after planting before applying the summer mulch.
- Remove the first blossoms to allow the plants to become established.
- Keep runners off during the entire season.
- Use a winter mulch of soybean straw or small-grain straw. (If you use grain straw, be sure it's free of weed and grain seeds.)
- If you're a commercial grower, be sure you have enough labor available to follow through with the system.



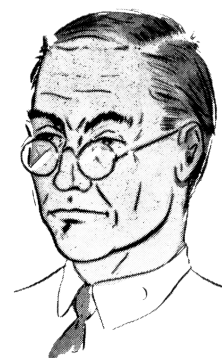
"Can't say they were up to mischief."



"At least the children weren't hurt."



"I'd spank those two."



"Pretty costly way to be helpful."

# Is Child Discipline Changing?

by Gertrude Chittenden and Dorothy Craft Fuller

**D**OES THE kind of authority your child experiences at home make any difference in the way he will rear his children? Or, to put it another way, is the type of authority you use with him related to the kind you experienced in your own childhood home? Perhaps it is—more than you think.

According to a recent study made here at Iowa State College there seems to be some carry-over of authority practices from generation to generation. In other words, a number of today's parents are using the same kind of home discipline or authority on their children as they experienced as youngsters. At the same time, some noticeable changes have been and are taking place.

Fifty pairs of parents living in

a Midwest college community took part in the study. Each family had only one child—their first child, who was between 2 and 6 years of age. Consequently, these parents had had no experience in establishing disciplinary patterns prior to the time they established the type of training or discipline for this first child.

They were asked to what extent they allowed their child to make decisions and assume responsibilities. They were asked to what extent they expected instant and unquestioning obedience; the kind of punishment they used most frequently; the identity of the person or persons who wielded the authority, and their attitudes toward the authority they used with their children.

Then, they were asked to recall such information from their own childhood homes.

GERTRUDE CHITTENDEN is professor of child development. DOROTHY CRAFT FULLER is a former graduate student in child development.